

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

William Aaron Brandenburg Collection
Documents

University Archives

2016-12-01

Memorial article about W. A. Brandenburg

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/brandenburg_history

Recommended Citation

"Memorial article about W. A. Brandenburg" (2016). *William Aaron Brandenburg Collection Documents*. 45.
https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/brandenburg_history/45

This Manuscript is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in William Aaron Brandenburg Collection Documents by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact mmccune@pittstate.edu, jmauk@pittstate.edu.

William Aaron Brandenburg was born in Volga, Iowa, October 10, 1869, and died in St. Louis, Missouri, on Tuesday, October 29, 1940, in his 71st year.

In March, 1913, he came to Pittsburg as the first president of Kansas State Teachers College, then known as the Kansas State Manual Training Normal School. The two chief executive officers who preceded him, R. H. Russ, and George E. Myers, held the title of principal.

He was a graduate of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, with the degree Ph B, 1903, and MA, 1905. In 1925, he was awarded the honorary degree of LL D from Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois.

His teaching career began at Capital Park High School, Des Moines, Iowa. From 1905 to 1910, he was superintendent of public schools, Mason City, Iowa, and from 1910 to 1913, he was superintendent of public schools, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He held a commanding position as a national leader in the field of teacher education, and particularly in industrial arts and vocational education. He served as president of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, held important committee assignments in the National Education Association, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, American Association of School Administrators, and other professional organizations.

Prominent in civic affairs and Masonry, he was president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce in 1927, and member of the board of directors for 14 years, also member of the board of directors of the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce for several years.

While his reputation as a builder and educator grew with the development of the College under his leadership, he became well known as a forceful and effective speaker, in great de-

mand not only before educational and professional conventions, but also before audiences of citizens and legislators. He played a prominent part in the development of public education in Kansas, served as president of the Kansas State Teachers Association in 1938, for several years was a member of the Kansas State Board of Education, the Kansas State Board for Vocational Education, the Kansas State Textbook Commission, and president of the Schoolmasters Club of Kansas. He served five years as a member of the committee on accrediting and classification of the American Association of Teachers Colleges.

When he came to the College in 1913, there were only two buildings on the campus, Russ Hall, the administration building, and the Industrial Arts Building. One year later, Russ Hall caught fire when lightning struck the building, on June 29, 1914. President Brandenburg was one of the leaders in the campaign that raised funds to rebuild Russ Hall within 48 hours after the fire. Citizens raised more than

\$100,000 to rebuild Russ Hall as it is today, and the next legislature appropriated the funds to reimburse the donors.

The rebuilding of Russ Hall was the beginning of a vitalized program that resulted in the addition of ten new buildings between that date and the crash of 1929. During President Brandenburg's administration the institution was raised by the State Legislature to the rank of a Teachers College, and was granted the right to award the Baccalaureate degrees of BS in Education and AB. A Junior High School and Senior High School were added to the Horace Mann Laboratory School for the training of teachers. The Graduate Division was established in January, 1929, and the MS degree in Education was awarded for the first time the following year.